Elder

~~Rev.~~ Antonio Jones

When I took some time this week to reflect on what I wanted to share with you about ~~Rev.~~ Elder Antonio Jones, a Salt and Pepper song immediately came to mind…Now, I know most of you are probably too young to remember Salt, Pepper and Spindarella who burst onto the hip hop scene in 1986 and then went on to sell 10 million records world wide with songs such as The Show Stopper, Tramp, Push It and Let 'sTalk About Sex… but anyway, I digress.

But their song that I associate with ~~Rev~~ Elder. Jones is a song that Salt and Pepper performed with En Vogue in 1993 called What a Man, What a Man, What A Mighty Good Man, now I can't repeat any more of the lyrics because I might get into trouble, but the chorus should be enough for you to get the message. Because indeed ~~Rev~~ Elder. Antonio Jones is a mighty good man.

How do you salute a mighty good man who is larger than life?

How do you convey the joy that you feel when he opens his mouth and a mighty roar of a song comes out?

How do you explain the mighty calm that washes over your body when he takes the pulpit to teach on what you thought was going to be an ordinary Sunday morning in March but

instead ended with an epiphany, a sudden release of tears and a mighty angel on your shoulder.

How do you talk about a man, a mighty good man who epitomizes the George Orwell quote "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act". Please let me repeat that, "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

Elder

~~Rev~~. Antonio Jones is a man who came to Atlanta ten years ago to build a church and in so doing has become a mighty unifying force. A truth teller, A man who is not afraid of a mighty revolution… You might be asking yourselves now, what is she talking about? What does she mean by a revolution? We've already had the French Revolution, the Mexican Revolution, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the Haitian Revolution, the Russian Revolution and the Revolutions of 1830 and 1848. Haven't we had enough revolutions?

Well sisters and brothers, I'm talking about change…a sea change, a profound transformation, a fundamental change.

Sustainable Change

I'm talking about a mighty man who provides leadership for a community church, a social ministry…a come as you are church, a we don't just do church, church.

I'm talking about a mighty man whose church does not have cushy pews , or a big budget or paid staff but equally important, Unity has a value system that forces it to dig deep to pass out 150 lunch bags once a month to the homeless population, an outreach ministry that provides hot meals every 4th Sunday to men, women and children who in many cases are getting their only meal of the day, a social ministry that runs a literacy program because Unity believes and acts on the belief that reading is a fundamental right, a ministry that reaches out to the women's shelter by helping the mothers help their children.

This is a mighty man who looks at the man in the mirror. He's relishes being alone with himself to do his internal work around classism, ableism, sexism and homophobia. He understands what Black, Lesbian, Feminist Poet, Audre Lorde meant when she said, " It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences".

This is a man who is willing to extend himself and is not afraid of how it might look when he plays the piano on any given Sunday while the Assistant Pastor, Marrisa Pendermon preaches the sermon. We're talking about a mighty man who sits around the table with Unity's two female deacons, 1 female deacon candidate and 1 male deacon candidate and shares with them all that he can.

4

We are talking about a man who puts his money where his mouth is by funding scholarships for out black lesbians and gay men, a man who pounds the pavement and sits in board rooms fighting against trans phobia and for same sex gender loving people to have basic human rights.

We're talking about a revolution…

And in closing….What a man, what a man, what a mighty, good man. that Elder Antonio Jones

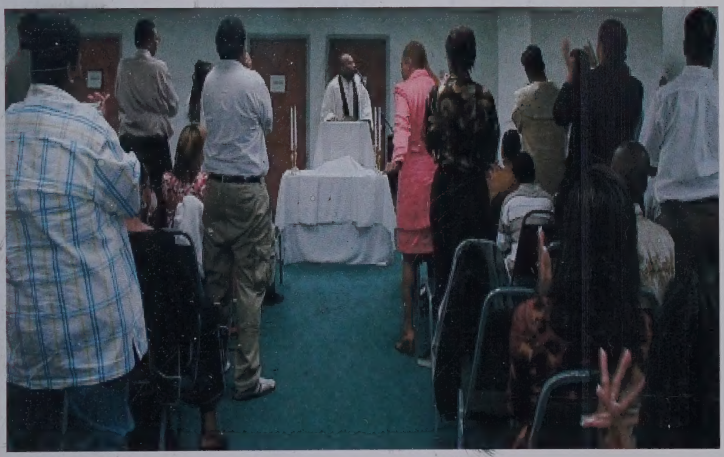
ELDER ANTONIO JONES

&

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, ATLANTA

CELEBRATES!

10 YEARS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY



Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
June 1 - 3, 2007

Friday, June 1, 2007

Mistress of Ceremony
Ms. Vivian Woodall-Cooper

Drumming	***"Drum Sistahs"***	*7:00 - 7:15*
Prayer	***Tehmi Wiley***	*7:15 - 7:30*
Welcome	***Lynn Duhart***	*7:30 - 7:35*
Occasion	***Minister Maressa Pendermon***	*7:35 - 7:40*
Announcements	***Duane Baker***	*7:40 - 7:45*
Musical Selection	***Janiece Thompson***	*7:45 - 7:50*
Introduction of Speaker	***Elder Antonio F. Jones***	*7:50 - 8:00*
Speaker	***Reverend Paul Turner***	*8:00 - 8:05*
Remarks	***Elder Antonio F. Jones***	*8:05 - 8:30*
Closing Prayer	***Reverend Paul Turner***	*8:30 - 8:35*

A native mid-westerner who was raised in the United Methodist Church, Paul Turner felt, even as a young child, a call to pastoral ministry. He majored in Theology and minored in Psychology at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. He left prior to graduation when the nature of his sexual orientation became clear to him and church officials informed him that he would never be ordained within the United Methodist Church. After being out of the church for six years, Turner discovered the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church in June of 1982. He received a certificate in "Crisis Intervention" from the Council of Christian Communions of Cincinnati in 1983; served on the Crisis Intervention Team and as a Chaplain for the city jail, was licensed as a clergyperson in the UFMCC in 1986, and ordained in 1989.

Rev. Turner's first church was in Toledo, Ohio where he took a church of 14 and built it into a congregation of 120 during his 6-year pastorate. He founded the N.O.V.A. Project (No One's Victory Alone). He also served as the President of the Board of Trustees of F.O.C.U.S. (Family Outreach Churches United in Service), in addition this group he oversaw a Transitional Housing program that provided shelter to six families at a time.

In late 1993, Rev. Turner was called to Pastor All Saints MCC in Atlanta, Georgia, a position he held for nearly a year. In the early part of 1995, he was called by and became the Senior Pastor of Abundant Grace Community Church of Atlanta.

In the spring of 1998, Rev. Turner founded Gentle Spirit Christian Church of Atlanta, Inc. of which he is the Senior Pastor.

Rev. Turner has been in Atlanta since January 1, 1994 and has been at the forefront of leadership and activism for the gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered community. He has and continues to work with several community organizations including but not limited to: Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network, Georgia Equality Project, Atlanta Gay Chamber of Commerce, Hotlanta Softball, Monday's Myth Bowling, Faith Issues Community Committee. He also coached an openly gay hockey team on a straight league and works with the Stonewall Democrats. Rev. Turner served as the President of InTown Community Assistance for 5 years, as the Corporate Vice-President for a webzine for GLBTQ Christians called Whosoever, for which he also writes a column for the webzine called "Seeds of Hope" and he worked as an advisor to an outreach in Rockdale and Newton County called the Zaccheaus Society . Currently he serves as President of the Board of Directors and is an enthusiastic member of Trans=Action – an education and advocacy group for the transgender community. In addition he has been invited and serves as the co-chair on a working steering committee called the "Rainbow Brigade" of the National Mental Health Association of Georgia, which serves to identify and advocate for the mental health needs of the GLBTQ community.

His partner of 23 years (Bill) and Pastor Paul own a home in South East Atlanta and their family includes 2 labs-Sara and Coco NoNo, and a Macaw named Jimmy.

Saturday, June 2, 2007

Master of Ceremony Mr. Demarco Stallings

Prayer	***Aaron Byrd***	*7:00 - 7:05*
Welcome	***Angela Pratt***	*7:05- 7:10*
Statement of Occasion	***Minister Maressa Pendermon***	*7:10- 7:15*
Musical Selection	***Mr. William Bess***	*7:15- 7:25*
Grace	***Warren Crudup***	*7:25 - 7:30*
	DINNER	*7:30 - 8:00*
Tribute to Elder Antonio Jones	***Maurice Cook & Mary Anne Adams***	*8:00 - 8:15*
Introduction of Speaker	***Elder Antonio Jones***	*8:15 - 8:25*
Musical Selection	***Janiece Thompson & Tyree Montgomery***	*8:25 - 8:30*
Speaker	***Reverend Tommie Watkins***	*8:30 - 8:50*
Closing Remarks	***Elder Antonio Jones***	*8:50*

Rev. Tommie Lee Watkins, Jr. is the General Manager of The Watkins Group, LLC. (TWG) and founder of the Ministry of Reconciliation, which is an inclusive and affirming education and worship experience primarily for Black Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning persons, Persons Living With AIDS (PLWAs) and their family members and is conducted in Miami, Florida and Nassau, Bahamas. Rev. Tommie Lee Watkins, Jr. is an ordained Baptist minister and a native of Birmingham, Alabama.

Tommie is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida and an Alumnus of the United States Naval Academy. He has been featured on BET Tonight to respond to the study that claims homosexuals can become straight. He was profiled in the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) "I'm Black and I'm Proud" book. He's been in The Advocate's special Trailblazer's edition discussing his legal victory against the U.S. Navy. Tommie currently resides in Birmingham, AL where he is a community activist and consultant to various agencies conducting HIV/AIDS prevention education focusing on programs targeting Black men of color who have sex with men and women (MSMWs).

Sunday Morning Worship

June 3, 2007 @11:00 a. m.

Meditation / Reflection

Announcements

Corporate Prayer

Praise Team

Welcome

OFFERING

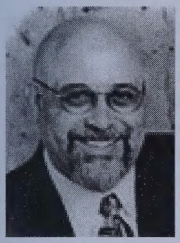
Communion

Introduction of Guest Preacher
Elder Antonio F. Jones

Guest Preacher
"Reverend Doctor Randall Bailey"

Remarks
Elder Antonio Jones

Closing Prayer & Affirmation



Dr. Randall C. Bailey is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Hebrew Bible at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Bailey is a native of Malden, MA. He received the BA from Brandeis University, the MA in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago, the MDiv from Candler School of Theology and the Ph.D. in Old Testament from Emory University.

Prior to coming to ITC Dr. Bailey taught at the Atlanta University School of Social Work and served as Assistant Minister at First Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta. Dr. Bailey is an ordained Baptist minister and holds his membership at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Dr. Bailey has served on the faculty of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University in New Orleans and has served as Visiting Scholar in Bible at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO, Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., Escola Superior de Téologia in Sao Leopoldo, Brazil, and at the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown, South Africa.

Dr. Bailey has served on the Editorial Board of Semeia, a journal of experimental research sponsored by the Society of Biblical Literature and on the Board of Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network, and as a consultant to The Balm in Gilead, Inc. He has represented the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Churches in the USA on several Program Ministries and the Executive Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, where he currently serves as Chair of the Bible Translation and Utilization Committee. Currently he serves on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Religion and Abuse* and on *Black Theology: An International Journal.*

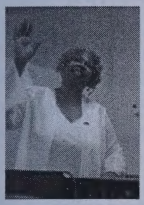
Dr. Bailey has lectured and preached extensively nationally and internationally. He is the author of one book, *David in Love and War: The Pursuit of Power in 2 Samuel 10-12* (Sheffield, 1990), co-editor with Dr. Jacquelyn Grant of the book, *The Recovery of Black Presence: An Interdisciplinary Exploration* (Abingdon, 1995), co-editor with Dr. Tina Pippin of the Semeia volume, entitled "Race, Class, and the Politics of Bible Translation." (1996), and editor of the Semeia Studies book entitled, *Yet With A Steady Beat: Contemporary U. S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation* (SBL, 2003). He is the author of numerous articles on the Hebrew Bible. He concentrates on the relationship of Ancient Africa and the Hebrew Bible and he specializes in ideological criticism, especially as regards the intersections of race, gender, class, sex, sexuality, nationality and power in the biblical text.

Dr. Bailey is married to Ms. D. Jean Lewis Bailey, formerly of Memphis, TN, and they have two young adult children, Omari and Imani.

Sunday Afternoon Worship

June 3, 2007 @ 4:00 p. m.

Opening Prayer	***Drek Brundage***
Welcome	***Mellonee Rheams***
	Praise Team
Members' Tribute to Elder Jones	***Members***
Special Offering	***Antonio Hart***
Introduction of Speaker	***Elder Antonio Jones***
Solo	***Janiece Thompson***
Speaker	***Pastor Juanita Gillis***
Closing Remarks	***Lynn Duhart*** ***Minister Maressa Pendermon*** ***Elder Antonio Jones***
Closing Prayer	***Elder Antonio Jones***



Pastor Juanita A. Gillis is a native of Baltimore, MD. She received her early Christian experience at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Baltimore Maryland. She went on to become one of the founders of the Spirit of Liberty Christian Fellowship Church which later changed it name to the Word of Truth Center International located in Baltimore Maryland. In 1994 she came to Atlanta Georgia to start another branch of ministry.

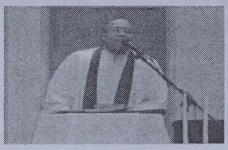
The Circle of Love Fellowship was manifested into being on July 3 1996 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Stephanie D. Williams as Pastor and Rev Juanita A Gillis being the Co-Pastor. On May 7th 2000 Rev Gillis became the Pastor of Circle of Love Fellowship. Her desire has always been to see the people become all that they can be spiritually, emotionally and financially.

She received her Bachelor in Psychology and is currently pursing her Masters in Community Counseling from Argosy University. She also has a Masters of Divinity in Spiritual Psychology from the institute for Self-Transcendence formerly known as the New Thought Theological Seminary in 1998. Rev. Gillis currently has a practice in Relationship counseling named R.E.L.A.T.E (Realizing Everyone's Life Always Touches Essence) Counseling Service where she is a certified forensic counselor specializing in relationship, youth, family and mediation counseling. She realizes that everyone must first have a good, healthy relationship with God, themselves and then with others.

In November 2003 Pastor Gillis founded NAMASKA Ministries, Inc. NAMASKA being a Hindu word meaning I behold the Divinity (God) in you. The church's faith statement comes from 1st John 3: 2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as is."

Pastor Juanita is a of the HolyWay Spiritual Fellowship. Bishop Otis E. Burnell, is the Presiding Prelate. Bishop Rev. Dr. Stephanie D. Williams is the Bishop for the Southern District.

ELDER ANTONIO JONES PASTOR AND FOUNDER



Elder Jones became a member of the Unity Fellowship Church, Brooklyn, NY, in October, 1992 and served as its Minister of Music until August 1995. In 1994 Rev. Jones was appointed to the ministerial staff.

While serving in New York Elder Jones served on the boards of the Pastoral Care Department of Brooklyn AIDS Task Force, a member of the Spiritual Rainbow (A group of Gay & Lesbian Clergy), a Crisis Intervention Volunteer for ACQC (Aids Center for Queens County) and a member of AIDS Interfaith, NY.

In March, 1997, at the request of Arch Bishop Carl Bean, the Presiding Prelate of Unity Fellowship Churches, Elder Jones was asked to take his ministry and the work of this movement to Atlanta, Georgia to reorganize its local assembly. On June 1, 1997, the first service of Unity Fellowship, Atlanta was held at the Atlanta Lambda Center. Today, Elder Jones proudly serves as the pastor of Unity Fellowship of Christ Church located in Southwest Atlanta.

In addition to his work as a pastor Elder Jones also served as a member of the Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Care Services Planning Council, Pastoral Care Department of AID Atlanta at Grady Hospital, President of the Board of Directors for the National Aids Education and Services for Minorities(NAESM) and a member of the Advisory Board of United Way, Inc. Elder Jones is also a Georgia State Department of Human Resources Certified HIV Prevention Counselor and a Certified HIV Fundamentals Instructor. From 1999 -2001 Elder Jones served as Chair of In the Life Atlanta, Inc. the organization the produces Black Pride in Atlanta each year. During his tenure as Co-Chair he was able to convince Hartsfield Airport to display a banner to welcome the constituents of Black Pride. This was the first time in the history of Black Gay Pride that this had ever happened.

On May 5, 2001, Elder Jones founded and incorporated Free To Be Me, Inc., a Georgia based nonprofit whose mission is to encourage same sex attracted individuals to have a healthy self-acceptance of their whole person, primarily through providing information, education, resources and spiritual/therapeutic support that will promote empowerment, inner healing and self love.

"Beloved, not only do you deserve love, it is your divine right to be loved…" is the motto used by Elder Jones during all his messages, lectures and seminars. You can always count on all of his sermons ending with this affirmation based on Romans 8:32, "...Neither height nor depth, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor any other shall able to separate us from the LOVE of GOD."

THE HISTORY OF UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ATLANTA

On April 12, 1997 a team consisting of: Craig Washington, Gail Booker, Badilli Jones, Bill Yarbrough, Darryl Moch, Billy Dunbar, Mellonee Rheams, Tony Daniels and Kevin Bynes began planning for what was to become the Unity Fellowship Church in Atlanta.

On Sunday, June 1, 1997, Unity Fellowship Church Atlanta (UFC Atlanta) held its first service at the Atlanta Lambda Center 868 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta.

Sunday December 21, 1997, Arch Bishop Carl Bean installed the founding body of UFC Atlanta. The Founding members were: Gail Booker, Mellonee Rheams, James Lacking, Victor Stewart, Wallace Henry Edwin "Maurice" Cook, "Queen", Darryl Moch, Kevin Bynes, Shane White, Wayne Plaskett and Jeff Fuller.

Sunday June 7, 1998, Bishop Zachary Jones installed Rev. Antonio F. Jones as Pastor and Founder of the Unity Fellowship of Christ Church in Atlanta.

In June, 1999 Unity moved to its present location at 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Atlanta, GA, originally sharing space on the 6th floor of the building with the National Aids Education Services for Minorities (NAESM) and later sub-leasing separate space on the 6th floor from NAESM as the congregation continued to grow. During this time in the church's history new ministries were launched to meet the needs of the parishioners and the community, including: The Usher Board and The Feed Our Families Ministry.

In October, 1999 during our Annual Convocation, Edwin "Maurice" Cook, James Lacking, Victor Stewart and Wallace Henry became the first ordained Deacons of UFC Atlanta.

In 2002, under the leadership of Sister .Julia Wallace, Agape, the first choir of the UFC Atlanta was formed. Sister Maressa Pendermon also launched The Capital Campaign Committee that year.

In 2003 the Feed Our Families Ministry was expanded to a full service homeless ministry under the leadership of Sister F. Lynn Duhart.

In 2004 once again the congregation outgrew the worship space and moved to its current location at 2001 MLK Dr., Suite 550 Atlanta, GA. 30308. Brother to Brother, Sistah Circle, Personal Success (a literacy ministry), Children's Church, The Audiovisual, and Youth ministries were added.

In 2005 Deacon Maressa Pendermon was ordained as UFC Atlanta's first Minister and was appointed Assistant Pastor.

In 2006 Reverend Antonio Jones was ordained Elder in the Unity Fellowship Church Movement and became responsible for the oversight of other churches within the Unity Fellowship Church Movement. The church also expanded its worship services to included a Wednesday night midweek service.

During the last 10 years, not only has the church grown in membership, but its liturgical and administrative staff has also grown, along with its service to the national body. UFC, Atlanta celebrates its tenth anniversary with excitement, gratitude, determination and a strong resolve to change the Southeast and the world with the transformative message of LOVE!

Mission Statement

*UFC, Atlanta strives to be a beacon of light taking on the responsibility of being an uncompromising voice for truth and justice for **all** people. We are the manifestations of LOVE doing the work to demonstrate God's LOVE for all humanity. It is also the mission of UFC, Atlanta to be a place where the expressions of God can be revealed beyond the limits of race, class, age, education, gender and sexual orientation.*

UFC, Atlanta clergy and members are charged to walk in the power of LOVE, as Jesus, the Christ taught and lived. Therefore, in order to demonstrate the essence of LOVE in our lives we will:

- Feed the hungry.
- Visit and care for the sick and shut-in.
- Comfort and pray with the distressed.
- Clothe the naked, touching all those who desire our compassion.
- Affirm the disavowed.
- Empower the disenfranchised and

LOVE EVERYONE!

Special Thanks

Brother to Brother of Unity Fellowship

Debra Mlambo

Sistah Circle of Unity Fellowship Church

All Performers

Sysco Foods

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church

Drum Sistahs

Demarco Stallings

Ricky Wilson

Janiece Thompson

10th Anniversary Planning Committee

Lynn Duhart

Vivian Woodall

Minister Pendermon

Imani Evans
Author * Poetess * Activist

As a community change agent and advocate for women, Imani is the founder and Executive Director of Women Healing Women as a support group for survivors of sexual violence, in her living room, in September of 2004. She began holding the groups at Unity Fellowship Church in May of 2005. The expansion of Women Healing Women began with the development of a dynamic team in January 2006... and it has continued to grow from there.

Imani Evans holds a Bachelors degree in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling Psychology. She has been a social change agent for more than 18 years, working with several non-profit agencies throughout Atlanta, New Jersey and New York. She has successfully served a wide range of populations, including survivors of sexual violence, mentally ill clients, breast cancer survivors, seniors, people living with HIV/AIDS and families experiencing homelessness. Her areas of organizational expertise are creative program development, staff training, and coalition building.

Evans received Special Congressional Recognition as director of a national breast and cervical cancer awareness program. She has facilitated workshops across the country for such organizations as: Georgia Homes and Services for the Aging (GAHSA), In The Life Atlanta, Newark Day Center, Miss Teen Plus Scholarship, YWCA-National, TEDCO Lincoln House, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, National Black Women's Health Project, MELD Program for Girls, and Dance to a Different Drum.

Imani is the author of "**Today is the Miracle: A 30-day guide to overcoming challenges and creating miracles**". She has been featured in Atlanta's Creative Loafing newspaper; New Jersey Star Ledger newspaper; Clickque magazine; Atlanta's KISS 104.1 & WRFG radio shows. Her inspirational articles have been featured online in a monthly column entitled, "Living Authentically".

Most importantly, Imani started women healing women because she is a survivor of sexual violence herself. And she believes that **no woman** should have to be alone in the journey and restoration of her life from sexual violence.

LaMont "Montee" Evans

The five words to describe LaMont "Montee" Evans are:

PERSONABLE | COMMITTED | DEDICATED | APPROACHABLE | HUMOROUS

Born in St. Louis, Missouri some 38 years ago, he is a product of the St. Louis Public School System. Evans dropped out of high school in the 10th grade and went back to acquire his GED. Evans acquired his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from DeVry University Chicago, Illinois in May 1995. He is pursuing his Master of Business Administration from Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

Evans moved to Atlanta, Georgia to pursue higher education consulting opportunities. He served as the Director of National Programs for National AIDS Education & Services for Minorities with specific responsibility for the African American Men United Against AIDS program overseeing 33 states. He is the Founder/Publisher of *Sequoia Magazine*. Evans also started a consulting firm – **mojaevans Professional & Publishing Services, LLC** where he currently serves as the *Chief Innovation & Development Officer*. Evans registered his company in Ghana, West Africa in 2005 and travels to Africa twice a year to conduct humanitarian and business work. In addition, Evans started a nonprofit organization – **Healthy Black Communities, Inc.** where he serves as the Chief Executive Officer and works within multiple communities to improve the quality of life for Black people, both domestically and internationally. Signature projects for the organization are **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, Ghana HIV/AIDS Awareness Week, Black Pride USA and Am I Safe With You.**

Evans has received a number of leadership recognition awards and certificates for roles served in a number of communities, be it: *African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic-American, Higher Education, Same-Gender-Loving as well as the Editorial arena.* He has done an extensive number of workshop and seminar presentations, spoken at a number of professional and organizational functions and has chaired hundreds of meetings. He is an articulate speaker, facilitator and very well versed in community development processes.

He attended the Million Man March in 1995, served as a Keynote Speaker for the Atlanta Black Gay Pride March in 2005, been featured on CNN, BET, countless radio programs and newspaper articles. Evans is continuously recognized as a leader within multiple communities, both domestically and internationally.

Honorees

These people were chosen because we feel that they exemplify some part of the Unity Fellowship Church mission

Mary Anne Adams Award

SANDRA LAWSON is a Sociologist focusing on Environmental Justice, and Social Justice. "I believe in the concept of Tikkun Olam," a Hebrew phrase which translates to "repairing the world." She currently serves on the Board of Directors of YouthPride, as the First Vice President for Congregation Bet Haverim, and she is also part of a newly formed faith based alliance in Atlanta. Sandra received her MA in Sociology from Clark Atlanta University and currently works as an Adjunct professor at Georgia Perimeter College, a Consultant for the Southeast AIDS Training and Education Center at Emory University; she also runs a personal training business called BBS Personal Training, Inc and she is a trained Victim Outreach Specialist.

Tony Daniels Award

ANTHONY A. MCWILLIAMS, a child of Hip-Hop and 80's music is originally from Newark, New Jersey. While living in London, England for six years and subsequently obtaining a degree in music and video production in Dallas, Texas, Anthony released three successful European dance singles and two independent single releases. He and Jimmy George proudly lead the co-producing of ADODI Muse's first CD, "Ain't Got Sense Enuf to be 'Shamed". His most recent solo CD projects are the innovative and provocative "Songs From My Closet" and the soon-to-be-released "Closets On Fire," Anthony's first full length CD. Anthony was formally Prevention Programs Manager for AID Atlanta and now Senior Partner of Williams-McWilliams Consulting. His personal mission statement centers on edutainment, which is educating while entertaining especially concerning HIV and black gay activism. He is dedicated to educating and promoting positive behavior change within Black gay communities and the community at large. You can visit Anthony Antoine on the web at www.anthonyantoine.com.

Honorees

These people were chosen because we feel that they exemplify some part of the Unity Fellowship Church mission

Arch Bishop Carl Bean Award

MELLONEE RHEAMS was born and raised in Odessa Texas . She is the eldest and only daughter of Albert and Ruth Rheams. She graduated in 1990 from Texas Tech University with a degree in Architecture. She moved to Atlanta in 1996 and immediately became involved in the LBGT community as an activist from Washington, DC .

Mellonee's passion for the LBGT activist was ignited in Washington, DC. While in Washington she was very active with The Black Lesbian Support Group, Lesbian Health at Whitman Walker Clinic, DC Black Pride public relations committee & UNITE. Once she relocated to Atlanta she wanted to continue her involvement with the LBGT community. She begun community activism with the formation of ITLA in which she was a founding member.

As she served on the board of ITLA working hundred of volunteer hours for ITLA she began to focus her attention on becoming a productive member of Unity Fellowship Church Atlanta in which she has dedicated thousands of hours. She is currently the Vice Chair on the Trustee Board and has donated countless hours managing church facilities, building search and assisting with any and all ministries. She is a member of church leadership and is proud I have been an active member of Unity Fellowship Church Atlanta since it founding in 1997

Elder Antonio F. Jones Award

ANTONIO B. HART, a native of Atlanta is a graduate of Talladega College with a degree in Computer Science. Following his graduation he taught elementary school for two years and he also taught Computer Literacy for three years.

Giving back to his community is a constant need of Antonio. He chose Literacy Volunteers of America ("LVA") as his niche. It was and still is important to him that all people, young and old, are able to take advantage of all the opportunities afforded them. Literacy is often a barrier to this reality so he wanted to do his part to alleviate this obstacle from their lives.

Feeling the need to capture his love for teaching and his interest in Computer Science, Antonio became employed in the Information Technology field as a Desktop and Application Support Analyst & Trainer.

Currently, Antonio serves as a Trustee of Unity Fellowship Church, Atlanta and member of Brother-to-Brother, the men's ministry of the church. He is very active with Feed Our Family, the ministry that provides meals to the members of our homeless community and is very interested gearing up for the new students of Personal Success, Unity's Literacy program.

Antonio is a son, brother, uncle, friend and confidante to many. But most of all he is a loving and dedicated member of Unity Fellowship Church and a committed member of the struggle to ensure social justice for all.

HONOREES

These people were chosen because we feel that they exemplify some part of the Unity Fellowship Church mission

EBONEE BRADFORD, born in Birmingham, Alabama, is the mother of two children Kyndra and Kynath. Ebonee has resided in Atlanta since 1995. In 1997, she founded Sunshine Productions, an events coordinating and fundraising company. Ebonee has become a familiar grassroots activist in the Atlanta LGBT community, serving on numerous committees and Boards.

Some of her accomplishments and associations include: The Community Leader Award by the Franklin Productions in 1998, Community Service Award by Affair with Aflair, ITLA Board Member 2000-2002, BlackTriangurl Leader Builder 2000-2002, Raymond Carter and Associates 2000-2003, Member of Associations of Black Pride, Member and Lupus Survivor of the Lupus Foundation of America since 2000, ALCI (Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative) 2004, Fourth Tuesday Board member since 2005, HRC Diversity Committee, Co Chair Event Planner for the Women's Final Four Viewing and HRC Gospel Soul Event 2006 & 2007. Member of Together In Love. First African American Female to Co chair the Human Rights Campaign Annual Dinner in 2008 in 21years. She is the 5th of seven kids and most people do not know that she is a fraternal twin . She is currently serving a 2nd term as Board member with ITLA, and raising her two year old great niece Rebbie .

ZANDRA R. CONWAY is the President and CEO of Infinite Options, LLC which is a Marketing and PR firm. She is 1979 graduate of San Jose State University with a BA in Social Science and 1993 graduate of University of San Francisco with a BS in Management Information Systems.

Zandra started her company after a twenty-two year career with Hewlett Packard. She worked in various functional areas such as Manufacturing, Human Resources, Marketing and finishing the last 15 years in Information Technology. Along with her professional duties, she was active in Communication Relations. She served as President of the Atlanta Black Employees Forum, and Co-Chair of the Professional Women Conference.

As an active person in her community, she also serves on the following boards; In The Life Atlanta, Inc, National Black Justice Coalition, Atlanta Stonewall Democrats and For the Kid, Inc. She is a former Board Member of Georgia Equality and Atlanta Executive Network. She considers herself as a Civil Rights Activist working on various Human Right causes.

She is a golden-life member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and attends Hillside Chapel and Truth Center under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Barbara Lewis King. She is the Campaign Manager for Commissioner Annette Kesting. As her first time running a campaign, she helped elect the first black woman Commissioner in Cobb County, Georgia.

Along with a very busy schedule, Zandra is a proud mother of a teenage daughter. She considers being a mother as one her greatest accomplishments. Her daughter Kendra is one the reason why she smiles each and every day. She lives in Atlanta, GA.

HONOREES

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COMMUNITY AWARDS

ANGELA HARRINGTON RICE is native of Washington, DC and a product of Crawfordville, Georgia, Angela Harrington Rice has always been a person who has worked to bring diverse worlds together. As a television executive she has used her position to create positive exchanges between persons of diverse backgrounds.

Angela Harrington Rice is Senior Executive Producer for Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, Inc. where she has served in many editorial and management capacities. Over her 25 year career in television broadcasting she has created, produced and written television series, award winning documentaries and many television specials. Since 1989, she has produced and hosted "A Woman's Place," which focuses on the concerns, needs and accomplishments of women. She has interviewed many prominent authors, community and national leaders such as Nikki Giovanni, Elizabeth Omilami, Marianne Williams, Dr. Wayne Dyer, Glenda Hatchet, Iyanla Vanzant, Blair Underwood, Dr. Barbara L. King and the late June Jordan to name a few. She is also a well respected public speaker and the President of Radiant Vision Communications, an events planning organization that specializes in planning spirituality and personal growth workshops, seminars, classes and retreats. She is an ordained New Thought Teacher and Minister and currently serves as the Dean of the Barbara King School of Ministry at Hillside International Truth Center where Rev. Dr. Barbara King is the founder/minister.

Angela earned a B.A. degree in Mass Communications from Clark College, a M.A. degree in African and African-American Studies from Clark Atlanta University and a graduate of the Barbara King School of Ministry where she was ordained as a Master Teacher and Minister.

Angela has contributed to the Atlanta community through her work with many community service organizations. She lives in Riverdale Georgia with her husband of 23 years, Carlos Rice, and their dog, Mango. Angela enjoys camping, reading, writing, speaking, traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Honorees

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Community Awards

CHARLES STEVENS, an Atlanta native, coordinates the African-American Gay Outreach Program at AID Atlanta. He is a graduate of Georgia State University, and as a student, co-founded Black Out, an organization for Black LGBT students. His writing has been published on Wiretap, Alternet, the Gay and Lesbian Review, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the anthologies: Think Again and If We Have to take Tomorrow, and Arise Magazine. He has also been previously honored by ZAMI with the Tony Daniels Community Award and the Marlon Riggs Social Justice Award. He also has a blog: charlesfstephens2.blogspot.com

HONOREES

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REVEREND PAUL TURNER majored in Theology and minored in Psychology at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. He left prior to graduation when the nature of his sexual orientation became clear to him and church officials informed him that he would never be ordained within the United Methodist Church. He left the church for six years then discovered the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Church in June of 1982. Turner received a certificate in "Crisis Intervention" from the Council of Christian Communions of Cincinnati in 1983; served on the Crisis Intervention Team and as a Chaplain for the city jail, was licensed as a clergyperson in the UFMCC in 1986, and ordained in 1989.

Rev. Turner's first church in Toledo, Ohio started with 14 members and he grew it into a congregation of 120 during his 6-year pastorate. He founded the N.O.V.A. Project (No One's Victory Alone). He also served as the President of the Board of Trustees of F.O.C.U.S. (Family Outreach Churches United in Service), in addition this group he oversaw a Transitional Housing program .

In late 1993, Rev. Turner was called to Pastor All Saints MCC in Atlanta, Georgia. In the early part of 1995, he became the Senior Pastor of Abundant Grace Community Church of Atlanta. In the spring of 1998, Rev. Turner founded Gentle Spirit Christian Church of Atlanta, Inc. of which he is the Senior Pastor.

Rev. Turner has been in Atlanta since January 1, 1994 and has been at the forefront of leadership and activism for the gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered community. He has and continues to work with several community organizations including but not limited to: Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network, Georgia Equality Project, Atlanta Gay Chamber of Commerce, Faith Issues Community Committee. He also coached an openly gay hockey team on a straight league and works with the Stonewall Democrats. Rev. Turner served as the President of InTown Community Assistance for 5 years, as the Corporate Vice-President for a webzine for GLBTQ Christians called Whosoever, for which he also writes a column for the webzine called "Seeds of Hope" and he worked as an advisor to an outreach in Rockdale and Newton County called the Zaccheaus Society . Currently he serves as President of the Board of Directors and is an enthusiastic member of Trans=Action – an education and advocacy group for the transgender community. In addition he has been invited and serves as the co-chair on a working steering committee called the "Rainbow Brigade" of the National Mental Health Association of Georgia, which serves to identify and advocate for the mental health needs of the GLBTQ community.

His partner of 23 years (Bill) and Pastor Paul own a home in South East Atlanta and their family includes 2 labs-Sara and Coco NoNo, and a Macaw named Jimmy.